



**Combined Councils Retreat: The State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
and
The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/PL 102-321 Planning
Council**

Minutes

March 17, 2015

State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council Attendees: Lynn Albizo, Gray Barton, Alberta Brier, Jeanne D. Cooper, LaTawnya Stallworth for Martha Danner, Carlos Hardy, Kathleen O'Brien, Mary Pizzo, Delores Rowlette, Pete Singleton, Jaclin R. Warner Wiggins, John Winslow

Maryland Advisory Council Attendees: Sarah Burns, Chair; Mike Finkle, Dennis McDowell, Robert M. Pender, Charles Reifsnider, Anita Solomon, John Turner

PL 102-321 Council Attendees: Lynn Albizo, Karen M. Black, Morgan Cole, Michael Bluestone, Naomi Booker, Herb Cromwell, Jan Desper, Kate Farinholt, Nancy Feeley, Rebecca Frechard, Ann Geddes, Sharon Lipford, Dan Martin, Cynthia Petion, Michelle Stewart, Phoenix Woody

BHA Staff: Thomas Merrick, Rachel Faulkner, Brandee Izquierdo, Robin Poponne, Iris Reeves, Hilary Phillips, Greta Carter

Guests and Others: Jessica Honke, NAMI MD; Terrence Proctor, Department of Juvenile Services

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INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

The combined retreat of the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/PL 102-321 Planning council (Joint Council) and the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (SDAAC) began with introductions of members. Respective December 2014 minutes were reviewed and approved for both councils.

RETREAT OPENING - PURPOSE OVERVIEW

Cynthia Petion opened the session with an overview of the purpose of the retreat. The task is to discuss key components of the By-laws and offer draft concepts. This would be accomplished through specific break-out groups during the day. She then introduced Rachael Faulkner.

SB 174 - UPDATE

Rachael Faulkner, Governmental Affairs and Communication, BHA, announced that **SB 174, the bill establishing the Behavioral Health Advisory Council**, had passed the Senate and was now in the House. The bill was in Committee and the first reading in the House took place on February 26 and would be continue to be reviewed over the next few weeks. Most of the elements of the bill developed by the Council Workgroup remained intact. One major change (amendment) was that the provider/advocacy organization representatives would be appointed by the DHMH Secretary instead of the Governor. This would allow more flexibility for this group and remove term limit restrictions. Ms. Faulkner will continue to follow this bill through its completion.

UPDATED

Congratulations!! SB 174, passed both the Senate and the House and will be enacted into law. *A copy of the final reading of the Bill, as it appeared before the House, is attached.* The following amendments were made: On page 5, line 7, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education was added to the list of DHMH Secretarial appointed organizations. Also on page 5, in line 26 "Governor" was substituted with "Secretary" clarifying that the DHMH Secretary can appoint "additional representatives or individuals designated by the Council". On page 6 (D)(1) it was clarified that the term description under the purview of the Governor applies only to subsection (A)(1)(XXI) of the bill. Please note that the attached draft By-laws are a reflection of the elements of this legislation and include the most recent changes.

CLARIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP PROCESS FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED COUNCIL

Robin Poponne thanked John Turner for representing Council concerns through his testimony before the Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Friday, March 6, 2015, on behalf of the Behavioral Health Administration budget. Rachael Faulkner was also acknowledged for her support of Reverend Turner throughout this task.

Ms. Poponne discussed the three components – Ex-officio, DHMH Secretary appointed, and Governor appointed – of the proposed Council. She also emphasized that since this was a new Council that current council members would have to re-apply if they wished to continue to serve as members. One does not have to be a member to serve on the standing or ad hoc committees. Once the legislation for the new council is passed, Kim Bennardi, DHMH Office of Appointments will assist with the membership application process.

BREAK-OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION

Three Break-out groups were developed to focus on and support the three key areas to be included in the By-laws. We also thank the following participants.

PURPOSE AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL:

Gray Barton
Morgan Cole
Nancy Feeley
Jessica Honke
Brandee Izquierdo
Dan Martin
Terrence Proctor
Charles Reifsnider
Anita Solomon
La Tawnya Stallworth
John Winslow

Staff Support: Cynthia Petion

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MEMBERSHIP/MEETING/OFFICERS

Karyn Black
Jan Desper
Mike Finkle
Carlos Hardy
Jeanne Cooper
Dennis McDowell
Robert Pender
Delores Rowlette
John Turner
Phoenix Woody
Lynn Albizo

Staff Support: Robin Popoone
Greta Carter

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Alberta Brier
Naomi Booker
Herb Cromwell
Kate Farinholt
Rebecca Frechard
Anne Geddes
Sharon Lipford
Kathleen O'Brien
Thomas Merrick
Mary Pizzo
Peter Singleton
Michelle Stewart
Jaclin R. Warner Wiggins

Staff Support: Iris Reeves
Hilary Phillips

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REPORTING OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Notes were taken during the Break-out group sessions. The resulting recommendations and concerns were shared when the general group reconvened. As a result, these recommendations were incorporated in the attached draft By-laws.

NEXT STEPS

The support staff of the Council will address recommendations and begin to craft language of a draft set of By-laws. **Please see the attached draft.**

The group agreed that the next meeting of the Combined Councils will take place on April 21, 2015 from 9:30-11:00 am in the Dix Building of the Spring Grove Hospital Center. The attached draft will be discussed at that time.